

**Meeting Date:** January 17, 2008

**Agenda Item No. 9**

**Agenda Item:** To adopt changes to the Rules governing the taking of Game Birds (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 09), the taking of Game Animals (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 07), the taking of Migratory Birds (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 13), and Falconry (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 14).

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Don Kemner

**Background:**

- Upland game bird, upland game animal, and migratory bird (crow, dove, and crane) season dates, bag, and possession limits will be set on even-numbered years and cover a two-year period.
- WMA pheasant program hunter-orange rule does not specify a minimum size.
- Turkey populations in controlled hunt areas can support more hunting opportunity.
- Harvest by falconry within rules is biologically sustainable.

**Policy issues:**

- “Increase hunting opportunity” is a strategy of the Department’s Compass.
- “Provide hunting opportunities specific to youth” is a strategy of the Department’s Compass.

**Public Involvement Process:**

- Regions provided the public with opportunities to comment on Department-proposed changes.
- The Department website had a questionnaire asking for public input on the proposed changes to upland game rules.
- A small game hunter opinion survey was mailed to 3,000 hunting license buyers.
- The small game hunter opinion survey was also available on the Department’s website.

**Justification:**

Seasons are designed to manage Idaho’s upland game resources for maximum hunting opportunity while considering biological and sociological implications.

**Action Requested:**

Commission adoption of the Department’s recommendations.

**Staff Recommendations:**

Preliminary recommendations provided to the public for input are attached. Final recommendations, after considering public input, will be presented at the Commission meeting.